

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 00246 151259Z

4

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 S*L-01 SS-20 OAB-06 EB-11

IAE-00 I -10 NSAE-00 RSC-*01 COME-0 DRC-01 /091 W

----- 104189

R 142215Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1777

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 0246

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, GT

SUBJECT: AIFLD: GOG'S PERCEPTION OF ITS ROLE IN POLITICAL
CAMPAIGN POSES PROBLEM

SUMMARY: IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS,
MINISTER OF LABOR EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN THAT AIFLD HAD
BEEN MISUSED BY POLITICAL ENEMIES OF GOG IN LABOR
MOVEMENT. MINISTER SAID THAT GOG HAD CONSIDERED, BUT
THEN REJECTED, REQUEST FOR EXPULSION OF AIFLD, BUT
DID WANT ALL AIFLD PROGRAMS TO CEASE UNTIL AFTER
MARCH 3 ELECTIONS. GOG ATTITUDE BASED ON INCORRECT
INFORMATION, AND AFTER A FULL EXPLANATION OF AIFLD
OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES, MINISTER AGREED THAT PRESENT
PROGRAMS COULD CONTINUE. MINISTER'S FEARS, UNFOUNDED AS
THEY WERE, DO NEVERTHELESS HIGHLIGHT GOG'S EXTREME
PREOCCUPATION WITH POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, HIGH SENSITIVITY
OF AIFLD PROGRAM HERE, AND GOVERNMENT'S SUSCEPTIBILITY
TO MISCONCEPTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN JANUARY 10 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS,
MINISTER OF LABOR LEONEL LOPEZ RIVERA DISCUSSED AT LENGTH
GOG PRECEPTION OF AIFLD'S ROLE IN GUATEMALAN LABOR ORGANIZA-
TIONS. HE ASSERTED THAT INSTITUTE HAS BEEN AND
CONTINUES TO BE PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL PROP OF ANTI-GOG
FEDERATED WORKERS' CENTRAL (CTF) AND ITS LEADER
ARTURO MORALES CUBAS THROUGH PROVISION OF FINANCIAL AID,
EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, AND SALARIES FOR FOUR ACTIVISTS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GUATEM 00246 151259Z

LOPEZ, WHO SAID THAT GOG HAD CONSIDERED EXPULSION OF AIFLD

IN RESPONSE TO THIS UNACCEPTABLE SUPPORT FOR ITS POLITICAL ENEMIES, HAD REJECTED THIS COURSE AS UNNECESSARY. THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED INSTEAD TO ORDER THE CESSATION OF ALL AIFLD ACTIVITIES UNTIL AFTER THE MARCH ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH THIS ACTION WOULD RESULT IN CANCELLATION OF SMALL PROGRAM WITH A PRO-GOG ORGANIZATION IN FLORES, PETEN. LOPEZ ALSO COMPLAINED THAT PRO-GOG UNIONS HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED BY AIFLD, WHILE CTF HAS BEEN SOLE BENEFICIARY OF ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS.

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL HISTORY OF AIFLD RELATIONS WITH CTF SINCE 1970, POINTED OUT ONCE AGAIN THAT THE INSTITUTE HAS NOT BEEN THE SOURCE OF MORALES CUBAS' FINANCIAL BACKING. (ISSUE OF WHERE MORALES CUBAS' SUBSIDY COMES FROM HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY TROUBLING FOR GOG.) OFFICERS ALSO POINTED OUT TO MINISTER THAT AIFLD HAS CONDUCTED ONLY ONE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY SINCE APRIL FOR CTF AND THAT EVEN AT HEIGHT OF AIFLD/CTF COOPERATION IN 1972, CTF WAS DIRECT BENEFICIARY OF LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF AIFLD EDUCATION BUDGET. AT THAT HIGH POINT, AIFLD/CTF PROGRAMS WERE CONDUCTED WITH THE EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION OF LOPEZ. PROGRAM OF PAYING SALARIES OF FOUR ACTIVISTS TERMINATED DECEMBER 31, 1972. FURTHER, AIFLD HAS ALWAYS BEEN CAREFUL TO CONDUCT SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS WITH POLITICALLY NEUTRAL AND PRO-GOG UNIONS. DURING LATE 1972 AND EARLY 1973 LEVEL OF ACTIVITY WITH PRO-GOG UNIONS DROPPED OFF. AIFLD DIRECTOR SOUGHT OUT LEADERS OF THESE UNIONS TO DEVELOP EDUCATION PROGRAMS, BUT FOUND THEM UNRECEPTIVE OR DISINTERESTED IN ACTIVITIES WITH INSTITUTE.

3. CONVERSATION, WHICH BEGAN IN SLIGHTLY TENSE ATMOSPHERE, CONCLUDED ON MORE CORDIAL TERMS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TWO SHORT COURSES NOW PLANNED FOR THE END OF JANUARY (FOR PRO-GOG UNIONS) WILL BE COMPLETED. COURSE IN PETEN ENDED JANUARY 11 WHILE SECOND COURSE IS TO BE HELD JANUARY 21-26 FOR TEXTILE FEDERATION. AIFLD WILL BEAR SOME OF COST FOR SECOND COURSE WHICH IS TO BE HELD UNDER AUSPICES OF TEXTILE ITS (FITIV). LOPEZ APPEARED TO BENEFIT FROM HAVING HIS MEMORY REFRESHED ON NATURE OF AIFLD/CTF RELATIONSHIP. HE HAS BEEN REGULARLY INFORMED OF DETAILS THIS RELATIONSHIP

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GUATEM 00246 151259Z

AND PROGRAMS HAVE ALWAYS HAD HIS PERSONAL APPROVAL OR THAT OF A RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY STAFF OFFICER. HIS MISCONCEPTIONS OF AIFLD'S SUPPORT FOR MORALAT CUBAS HAVE HOPEFULLY BEEN ASSUAGED, AND WE BELIEVE DANGER OF PRECIPITATE ACTION BY GOG TO TERMINATE INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES PERMANENTLY HAS BEEN AVERTED FOR THE MOMENT.

4. LOPEZ ATTITUDE ILLUSTRATES CURRENT TENDENCY WITHIN

GOG TO MISCALCULATE AND MISJUDGE BECAUSE OF EXTREME PREOCCUPATION WITH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. IN AREA OF TRADE UNION AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN NOTABLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN WINNING SIGNIFICANT TRADE UNION POLITICAL SUPPORT. GOG, NOT WISHING TO OWN UP TO FACT THAT ITS OWN BASICALLY UNFRIENDLY POLICY TOWARD LABOR IS PRINCIPAL REASON FOR ITS MEAGER LABOR SUPPORT, HAS UNDERSTANDABLE TENDENCY TO LOOK FOR SCAPEGOAT. AIFLD, AS ONLY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WITH SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES WHICH HAS RELATIONS WITH THE CTF, IS A NATURAL, ALBEIT UNJUSTIFIED, TARGET OF GOG FRUSTRATIONS WITH CTF. GOVERNMENT'S IRE HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY CTF'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRONG PERSONAL ATTACKS MADE AGAINST MINISTER LOPEZ LATELY. WE WILL BE ALERT TO ANY FUTURE INDICATIONS OF GOG MISCONCEPTIONS OF AIFLD'S ROLE OR INCLINATION TO TERMINATE THE PROGRAM, AND WE WILL ASSURE THAT RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE KEPT CORRECTLY INFORMED OF INSTITUTE'S ACTUAL ROLE. DREYFUSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PATRONAGE, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GUATEM00246
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740144/aaaabplt.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIFLD: GOG'S PERCEPTION OF ITS ROLE IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN POSES PROBLEM
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, GT, AIFLD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005